

Brown, C. Allen

Appl. No. 10/761,701

Filed: January 21, 2004

Atty. Docket No. 23060-RA

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the existing claims with the following set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

a single wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances solely via revolution of said single wheel, wherein said incremental line markers enable measurement and display of distances based upon a fraction of a first revolution of said single wheel and optionally fractions of additional revolutions of said single wheel;

a housing that functions as a layout tool, said layout tool selected from a group consisting of a straight edge, a gauging block, a ruler, or a combination thereof, wherein said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface; and

a squaring lip, wherein said squaring lip is disposed on said housing.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ~~wheel~~single wheel comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch

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circumference, a 16-inch circumference, a nineteen and two-tenths-inch circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a first sidewall adjacently disposed to a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

a single wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances;

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a housing comprising edges dimensioned and configured to correspond to the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing, ~~wherein, said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface; and~~

a squaring lip, wherein said squaring lip is disposed on said housing.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said single wheel comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch circumference, a 16-inch circumference, an nineteen and two-tenths-inch circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

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11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises ~~a first sidewall adjacently disposed to a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees~~ a 'P'-shape comprising a base wall disposed parallel to a work surface, a rear wall disposed ninety degrees from said base wall away from the work surface, a top wall disposed ninety degrees from said rear wall and parallel to said base wall, an angled wall disposed forty-five degrees from said top wall extending toward the work surface, and a front wall disposed forty-five degrees from said angled wall, wherein said front wall enables said housing to rest against a wall surface perpendicular to the work surface.

12. (Currently amended) A method for measuring distances, said method comprising the step of:

obtaining an apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising a ~~wheel~~ single wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances solely via revolution of said single wheel, wherein said incremental line markers enable measurement and display of distances based upon a fraction of a first revolution of said single wheel and optionally fractions of additional revolutions of said single

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wheel; a housing that functions as a straight edge, wherein said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface; and

a squaring lip.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of placing said ~~wheel~~single wheel on a starting point on a surface requiring measurement, and rolling said ~~wheel~~single wheel over the surface.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of determining the distance traveled by said ~~wheel~~single wheel from the starting point, wherein the distance is ascertained by said incremental line markers on said ~~wheel~~single wheel.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of marking the surface at selected intervals indicated by said incremental line markers on said ~~wheel~~single wheel.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of utilizing said housing to measure the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said squaring lip comprises a blind nail hole.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said squaring lip comprises a string-groove groove, and wherein said string groove comprises a 'U'-shaped longitudinal channel.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises an enlarged cutout, wherein said enlarged cutout permits a large portion of said wheel single wheel to be exposed for contacting a workpiece, and wherein said enlarged cutout provides an additional viewing area for viewing said incremental line markers of said wheel single wheel.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said squaring lip comprises a blind nail hole.

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21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said squaring lip comprises a ~~string-groove~~ groove, and wherein said string groove comprises a 'U'-shaped longitudinal channel.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises an enlarged cutout, wherein said enlarged cutout permits a large portion of said ~~wheel~~ single wheel to be exposed for contacting a workpiece, and wherein said enlarged cutout provides an additional viewing area for viewing said incremental line markers of said ~~wheel~~ single wheel.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 7~~ claim 11, wherein said housing further functions as a gauging block, and wherein ~~said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface, and wherein said front wall is disposed perpendicular to a workpiece surface when said~~ single wheel of said apparatus is disposed upon the workpiece.

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24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing further comprises plumb lines and roof pitches, and wherein said plumb lines comprise markings utilized to level said apparatus on a workpiece, and wherein said roof pitches comprise markings utilized to frame rafters and similar building components.